

MEMO Department of Public Welfare

March 20, 1964

TO: Medical Directors and Administrators - All Institutions

FROM: David J. Vail, M. D.
 Medical Director

SUBJECT: Problem of Dehumanization

I would like to call to your attention the following two areas for study and consideration relating to the problem of dehumanization.

1. Administrative. It would be helpful to know how items such as Kleenex, sanitary napkins, toilet tissue and other personal items affecting personal hygiene are handled or distributed among patients.
2. Restraints and Seclusion. Based on the monthly restraint and seclusion reports it would appear that restraints and seclusion are used to a much greater degree in some institutions than in others. It might prove interesting and useful to explore why this is so. Perhaps there needs to be some review as to what constitutes appropriate reasons for such measures, and how the action is executed.

I would appreciate hearing from you with regard to these two items and how you view them with regard to your specific institution.

djv:js